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SOURCE Vojni Vesnik.

YUGOSLAV MILITARY EQUIPMENT

The postwar Yugoslav Army, as organized at the end of the war, had German and Italian arms left in Yugoslavia at the end of World War II. The army was reorganized with Soviet arms, but this source was eliminated with the Cominform Resolution. It also had some materiel obtained from the Allies during the war. This diversity in equipment has influenced training. A still greater problem is the supply of materiel and ammunition, since German, Italian, and Soviet sources no longer exist.

The principal equipment of the Armored Force is the 32-ton T-34 tank. Its armor varies from 55 to 100 millimeters in thickness. It has an 85-millimeter gun and two heavy machine guns. Its crew is composed of an officer, two noncommissioned officers, and two enlisted men. It has a 550-horsepower 12-cylinder diesel V-engine. It has a speed on level ground of 50 kilometers per hour; its radius of action is 300 kilometers. It carries 65 grenades: 30 antitank, 30 antipersonnel, and five demolition. The ammunition is Soviet-made. Yugoslavia has a total of 325 tanks, 30 percent of which are in Yugoslav workshops for repair where no spare parts are available.

The ZIS-76 self-propelled gun is also of Soviet origin. Its equipment is a 76-millimeter gun, armor 55 millimeters thick, and two 60-horsepower ZIS engines. The Yugoslav Army has 90 self-propelled guns, of which 34 percent are idle in workshops which lack spare parts. The quantity of ammunition is limited since there is only that which was obtained earlier from the USSR.

Heavy 152-millimeter JS (Josip Stalin type) guns of prewar Soviet construction have 900-horsepower engines. Yugoslavia received only nine of these guns; the other 120 on order from the USSR never arrived. Ammunition is limited to that received with the guns.

Among other armament captured at the end of the war are 6 Tiger tanks, 50 German Mark 3 and Mark 4 tanks, 40 Italian Spa and Fiat tanks of 7 to 13 tons, and 30 small Italian Ansaldo tanks of 2, 3, and 5 tons. These are deteriorating because of lack of spare parts and ammunition.

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The Air Force has Yak-3, 7, and 9 fighters. They do not differ much in performance or construction. They have engines of 1,300 horsepower, a speed of 580 kilometers, a ceiling of 10,000 meters, and are armed with two 20-millimeter guns and two 7.9-millimeter machine guns.

The principal fighter aircraft is the 1,500-horsepower water-cooled Stormvik, with a speed of about 450 kilometers, a ceiling of 5,000 meters, and armed with two 20-millimeter guns and two 7.9-millimeter machine guns. It carries four rocket tubes like the Katyusha.

The Air Force has a light Petlyakov bomber, which also serves as a reconnaissance aircraft. It has a 1,300-horsepower engine and a speed of 500 kilometers an hour. Yugoslavia also has the 4-engine Martin bomber built in 1947, whose performance is not yet known.

Pilot schools have I-1 trainers with a speed of 140 kilometers, I-2 trainers, and Yak-3s.

The "Ikarus" Factory has serially constructed Soviet-type aircraft. The Engine Factory in Rakovica overhauls engines for the Yugoslav Air Force.

Serial construction of the twin-engine Pionir P-232 fighter, designed by Engineer Beslin, has begun in Yugoslavia. Yugoslav industry is building various types of light aircraft with foreign engines for pilot schools.

Some aircraft of British and US origin captured during the war also remain as does some materiel left by the Germans and Italians. This materiel serves for training personnel.

Antiaircraft defense has the same problems as the Air and Armored Forces. Its main armaments are 88- and 127-millimeter guns and 20- and 25-millimeter antiaircraft machine guns of Soviet origin. The searchlights are 150-millimeter of Soviet origin, and are few in number. Ammunition, limited to quantities obtained earlier, is the greatest problem in antiaircraft protection.

The ground forces relied on materiel and munitions from the USSR and from the Skoda and Zbrojovak Factories in Czechoslovakia. Infantry units have Soviet Maxim and the Sarac guns, inherited from the Germans and remade. The large number of Zbrojovak guns, obtained from Czechoslovakia are very delicate and are damaged easily, but no spare parts are available for their repair. The infantry also has Soviet semiautomatic rifles and 82- and 85-millimeter mortars. The basic weapon for the infantry is the Mauser rifle. All guns and equipment captured during the war -- German, Hungarian, Italian, Czech, Soviet, and British -- are also used.

The basic artillery weapon is the prewar 75-millimeter cannon. Antitank guns of Italian origin and 55-millimeter caliber are used. A certain number are 88-millimeter and 47-millimeter.

Radio communications are organized in the main stations of the RBM. They have short wave receivers equipped with band switches for a medium-wave band of 70 to 140 volts /meters?/. They have batteries and are manually operated.

Tests have been made on secret weapons. Launchers for the German V-2 have been installed on the Adriatic coast. German technicians who were war prisoners were used in this operation. The installations remain, but there are no V-2 projectiles. The USSR anticipated sending its military technicians in case of war but did not make provisions to give Yugoslavia the equipment itself.

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